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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT The Port of Liepaja: Liquidation of the Trade Harbor/  
Activity in the Naval Port/Reconstruction/Harbor Master/  
Radio Facilities

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2. Liquidation of Liepaja Trade Harbor

"The trade harbour of Liepaja was gradually liquidated in accordance with Soviet methods this liquidation was not announced officially, just carried through in practice. No trade ships now call at the port with the exception of a few colliers and tankers which provide the town with fuel. The majority of the harbour cranes have been evacuated to Ventspils and to Riga. The 50-ton Titan crane has been transferred to Riga. Only two cranes ('gripping cranes' - literal translation) have been left on the territory of the coal harbour (east quay of the Winter Harbour). They run on rails and unload the occasional colliers. On the south quay of the town canal are two 1-ton cranes on rails which service the boats of the fishing enterprises (BOLSEVIK and GOSMORLOV) and of the Coast Guard.

3. "The trade port is now used by naval vessels. About 10-20 submarine chasers are stationed there. Each carries a crew of 40-50 men. The speedboats of the coast guard, each with a crew of 10-15, are also stationed there. So are the boats of the two fishing concerns: the BOLSEVIK fishing kolkhoz and the GOSMORLOV state (Latvian) fishing enterprise. The removal of both these enterprises from Liepaja is only a question of time. BOLSEVIK was to be removed

The then chairman of the kolkhoz, Andrejs Lanka, was even summoned to the Fishing Ministry. He apparently managed to get the evacuation postponed. That this was only a postponement and not a permission to remain is proved indirectly by the fact that the construction of a 'sleep dock' provided for in the plan of the repairs shop of BOLSEVIK has been abandoned.

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4. "With the liquidation of the trade port the entire port administration was also liquidated. So also was the port hospital which was located in a house on

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Padomju Avenue (formerly Kurmajas Prospekts). When the two fishing enterprises are removed, Liepaja will be purely a naval port consisting of the canal of the Naval Port (in the north), the Town Canal (in the south), the Winter Port and the Entrance Port (with the former Free Port).

#### Use of the Naval Port

5. "At present few warships use the Entrance Port. They mostly pass it; very few anchor there. Most warships now anchor in the canal of the Naval Port, especially in its broadened part to the East, opposite the Tosmare Shipyards.
  - a. A certain number of submarines of various classes are always there. Their number varies, 30 being the highest.
  - b. Quite a number of submarine chasers of various types are permanently stationed at Liepaja. Some of them are in the Town Canal and others in the canal of the Naval Port. Their number varies too but as far as can be judged there are about 20 larger chasers (ED) and about 40 smaller chasers (MO).
  - c. Destroyers call at Liepaja only occasionally. Their number is never larger than six.
  - d. Of the larger ships, the cruiser KIROV comes to Liepaja almost every year for an overhaul. Less frequent visitors are the cruisers MAKSIM GORKI and ORDOZHONIKIDZE.

#### Reconstruction

6. "Nothing new has been built and nothing old altered since 1945 either in the naval harbour or the other parts of the port. Even the rehabilitation of war damages has been very sketchy hitherto. For example, the corner of the quay between the Winter Harbour and the Town Canal (east corner), which was damaged by a bomb during World War II, has been repaired only provisionally with planks and boards. Nor has there been any enlargement or improvement of the harbour's railway network.
7. "The military authorities have hardly built anything despite the fact that Liepaja is now an important naval port. Only a few two-storied barracks have been erected in the harbour area. In the town, close to the former Kurmaja on Padomju Avenue, sailors have been building a large three-storied building for about a year, but even this seems to be a residential house.

#### Harbor Master

8. "The present harbour master is a man called (fnu) Savenko.

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#### Radio Station

9. "There is no civilian radio broadcasting station at Liepaja but quite a number of special stations. Even the state fishing enterprise GOSMORLOV has its own transmitter to talk to its boats at sea and to give them instructions.   there were four radio masts in the Naval Harbour. One of these was old and was therefore removed so that only three are left. By night red lights burn on their tops. It is believed that they jam VOA broadcasts."

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